Illegal Immigration racket

1933. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether just three years after the Malta Boat tragedy another illegal immigration racket, involving attempted smuggling of aspirants of jobs abroad was busted at IGI Airport, New Delhi, on 22nd May, 2000 when 26 persons were apprehended attempting to board and Oman bound Royal Jordan flight on the basis of forged documents;

(b) if so, the details of the persons apprehended and the employment bureau found operating the job racket; and

(c) the steps taken to effectively prevent such rackets, exploiting innocent job seekers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The apprehended persons intended to go to Greece for securing an employment and had obtained forged Continuation Discharge Certificates of Seamen and tickets allegedly from two travel agents after making a payment of Rs. 3.00 lakhs per head. One of the travel agents has since been arrested.

(c) The steps taken to prevent exploitation of innocent job-seekers include exercise of strict vigilance by the Immigration staff posted at airport and a watch on the activities of travel agents by the local police.

Demand for separate Kutch State

1934. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in 'The Times of India' dated the 5th July, 2000 under the caption "Under now there is demand for a separate Kutch State"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?